

*Eclectical Chiliasm ;*  
OR, A  
DISCOURSE  
Concerning the  
State of THINGS  
FROM THE  
Beginning of the *MILLENNIUM*  
To the end of the WORLD.

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May 10, 1927

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T O

Sir Thomas Barnardist  
Baronet

THIS Discourse  
is humbly De-  
dicated by

T. F.

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TO  
THE  
HONORABLE  
MEMBERS OF THE  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF THE PROVINCE OF  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
AT THE  
SPEECHES  
DELIVERED  
BY  
THE  
GOVERNOR  
IN  
COUNCIL  
ON  
THE  
11TH  
MAY  
1871

BY  
JAMES  
MURPHY  
OF  
THE  
CITY OF  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
PRINTED  
BY  
JAMES  
MURPHY  
AT  
THE  
PRESS OF  
JAMES  
MURPHY  
NEW BRUNSWICK  
1871

NEW BRUNSWICK  
1871

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TO THE  
READER.

I Have here attempted an Exposition of the Prophetick Visions, contained in the Twentieth and One and Twentieth Chapters of the Revelation. A Book which on pretence of its Mysteriousness is too much neglected. This as well as the rest of the Bible was undoubtedly Written for our Learning; and to encourage our Industry and Study, a Blessing is promised to them that Read, and Hear, and Keep the Words of this Prophecy, and the things which are Written therein, Chap. 1. 3. which supposeth that the Knowledge

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## To the Reader.

ledge of these Mysteries is attainable. I am far from pretending to understand all the Visions of this Obscure and Mysterious Book. Nay, I dare not boast of an intimate and thorough Acquaintance with those I have undertaken to explain. Yet I hope I am not a perfect Stranger to them, nor wholly mistaken in the meaning of any One Vision. I know they are differently interpreted by the Learned Hammond, GROEIIUS, and other Modern Expositors. But their way of interpreting has been solidly evinced to be none of the best, by the Learned Author of the Mystery of Godliness, so that my hopes are not much shaken with the Authority of these great Men. As to what concerns the Subject of the following Discourse, the Millennium is by them made to begin at Constantine, which is sufficiently

## To the Reader.

ciently confuted by the State of things from that Epocha to the end of the Thousand Years. And consequently all Interpretations pursuant to that Hypothesis fall to the ground. Besides, how unsatisfactory is their Exposition of Gog and Magog, and what little affinity between the Vision and the Event that is applied to it? For Gog and Magog come from the Four Quarters of the Earth, and perish in their attempt against the Camp of the Saints and the beloved City. But the Turks came only from the North Parts, succeeded in their Enterprize against the Christians, took Constantinople, and have been in Possession of it very near Two Hundred and Fifty Years. But I decline this invidious Argument, and for the Readers better satisfaction shall  
ac-

## To the Reader.

acquaint him with the grounds on which  
I proceed.

The Hypothesis to which my Interpretation is framed, is that of the Learned Mr. Mede, which has been fully vindicated by Dr. Hen. More in his Book even now mentioned. The Visions I dispose agreeably to the Order of Time in which they are fulfilled. And having framed my Exposition according to the most obvious sense of the words, I consider whether the supposed Event hath been foretold by any Prophetick Writer. And upon Enquiry I find a most wonderful agreement between these Visions, and several Prophecies in the Old Testament. And if any of them seem to relate to things already past, and to have received their accomplishment, this doth not hinder  
the

## To the Reader.

the accommodation of them to the Millennial Reign ; For the same Prophecy may very well respect different and far distant events, of which several Instances might be given. But I am perswaded most of these Prophecies were never yet fulfill'd, particularly those concerning the peaceable State of Christ's Kingdom, the Return and Incorporation of the Twelve Tribes, the Army of Gog, and that we are yet to expect the Accomplishment of them in the last Times of the World. But I am not much concerned what become of this Opinion.

For if this support from the Predictions of the Prophets fail, the whole Fabrick of my Exposition will stand unshaken, being grounded upon the manifest

To the Reader.

fcst meaning of the Visions, confirmed  
and strengthened by express Texts of  
the New Testament and very pro-  
bable Reasons.

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*Ecclētical*

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# *Eclectical Chiliasm ;*

O R,

*A Discourse concerning the State of  
Things from the Beginning of the  
Millennium to the end of the  
World.*

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## The Introduction.

**T**HE most Judicious Expofitor of  
the Revelation is the eminent-  
ly Learned Mr. *Joſeph Mede* of  
Pious Memory, to whoſe La-  
bours next to Divine Aſſiſtance, the ſlen-  
der knowledge I have in Prophetick My-  
ſteries is chiefly owing. His Method of  
interpreting the Apocalyp tick Viſions is  
grounded on his Scheme of Synchroniſms,  
that moſt happy diſcovery and only ſafe  
Rule

Rule of Interpretation ; “and muſt be  
“acknowledged to be the moſt natural  
“and unconſtrained, moſt agreeable to  
“the ſtyle of the Prophets, and likewise  
“to Hiſtory and Event. His large Com-  
mentary on the Apocalypſe ends with  
Ch. 14. On the reſt he has only publi-  
ſhed ſome ſhort Specimens or Eſſays, in-  
tending as the Writer of his Life tells  
us, to go over them again, and then to  
perfect his thoughts, and as fully to in-  
large himſelf upon them as he had done  
upon the foregoing Chapters. Beſides,  
his Eſſay on Ch. 20. &c. contains ſome  
peculiar Sentiments, which even among  
his greateſt Friends and Admirers have  
not found equal acceptance with the reſt  
of his elaborate Commentary. The de-  
fence of theſe Notions is very pleaſing  
and ſurprizing. How learnedly does he  
expound the Prophecy of St. Peter con-  
cerning the Day of Chriſt’s ſecond com-  
ing, in favour of his Opinion of the Con-  
flagration and Renovation of the World ?  
His conceit of the great Day of Judg-  
ment and of the Reign of the Saints on  
Earth is not without ſome fair probabi-  
lities. How ingenious is his Conjecture of

*Gog* and *Magog*? And there is an agreeable Beauty of thought in his diſtinction of the ſtate of the New *Jeruſalem*, and the ſtate of the Nations which ſhall walk in the light thereof. And yet I do not find that he hath made many Proſelytes to his perſwaſion concerning theſe Points. As touching the Viſions relating to theſe Myſteries they are in my opinion capable of a more ſatisfactory Expoſition, which is here attempted. I ſhall diſcourſe them in the ſame order they are accompliſhed.

To the Millennial ſtate belong,

First, The binding and confinement of Satan.

Secondly, The Reſurrection and Reign of the Saints.

Thirdly, The new Heavens and the new Earth.

Fourthly, The new *Jeruſalem*.

The thouſand years expired' *Gog* and *Magog* invade the Camp of the Saints.

And to this Expedition ſucceeds, the general Judgment and End of the World.  
Chap.

## C H A P. I.

*Of Satan's Confinement.*

**T**HE preparation to the Millennial happiness is the binding the Devil and shutting him up in the bottomless pit. ch. 20. 1, 2, 3. I saw an Angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit, and a great Chain in his Hand. And he laid hold on the Dragon that old Serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the Nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled. All which signifies no more than the close restraint of the Devil, and the retrenchment of that liberty which hitherto for wise ends God is pleased to indulge him. Now he is permitted to go to and fro in the Earth and to walk up and down in it, *Job* 1. 7. to practise his Infernal devices and arts of deceit. But then he shall be  
con-

confined to the airy Regions his proper Territories; or his walk on the Earth ſhall be limited to a narrower compaſs, viz, the nations not converted to the Faith of Chriſt. 'Tis ſaid ver. 7. 8. that *the Devil being looſed out of Priſon, goes to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the Earth, and to gather them together to Battel*, which ſeems to imply, that the Heathen nations during the term of his confinement ſhall not be expoſed to his deceitful practices. Which if true, promiſes to the Pagan World a great freedom from the miſeries and calamities of war. But whatever liberty the Devil may have in other parts, he ſhall be wholly excluded the Nations walking in the light of the new *Jeruſalem*. To which excluſion will be conſequent a great encrease of Peace, Truth and Piety in the kingdom of Chriſt.

1. As for wars and publick quarrels, Satan without queſtion hath a principal Hand in them. The great battel at *Armageddon* is undertaken at the inſtigation of unclean Spirits, *which go forth unto*

the Kings of the Earth, to gather them to the battel of the great day of God Almighty, Rev. 16. 14. And no ſooner is the Devil let looſe, but we find him at his old Employment, gathering the Nations to battel againſt the Saints ch. 20. 7, 8. Hence, without contradicting St. James, come Wars and Fightings, Quarrels and Diſſenſions. For even the luſts and paſſions of Men, to which the Apoſtle intitles them, are excited and enraged by the Devil, the profeſſed enemy to Peace and Unity. Peace as is obſerved by a learned Man, is the peculiar character of Man, as he is diſtinguiſhed from Brutes. And the great deſign of the Goſpel is to promote this diſpoſition, and to inſpire the World with a Spirit of univerſal love and Charity. When therefore the Devil ſhall be under cloſe reſtraint, and Men left to the Bent of their own inclinations, and the Conduct of Religion, there will doubtleſs be greater Friendſhip & Concord in the World both among particular Perſons and public Societies. And ſuch a peaceable State the Prophets foretell as the peculiar happineſs of the Kingdom of  
Chriſt.

Christ. For thus it was prophesied by *Isaiah*, that under his government *Men shall beat their Swords into plow-shares, and their spears into Pruning-hooks*; that Nation shall not lift up Sword against Nation, neither shall they learn War any more. *Isa. 2. 4.* And we meet with the same Prophecy in *Micah* with this addition, *They shall sit every Man under his Vine and under his Fig-tree, and none shall make them afraid.* Chap. 4. 3, 4. Hitherto hath been a perfect Reverse of all this. Men have beat their Plowshares in Swords, and their pruning Hooks into Spears. The Art of War was never more studied. And very frequent interruptions have been given to Mens security by rumors of Wars, and hostile Invasions which hath furnished the *Jews* with a very plausible Objection against the truth of our Blessed Saviours pretences. But these glorious Prophecies concern the Reign of Christ under the Millennial state, and shall then have their accomplishment. When Satan that grand Incendiary whose business and delight it is to disturb the peace of mankind, shall be Chained up; then the Peace of God, and that

that Divine grace of peaceableneſs to which we are called by the preaching of the Goſpel, ſhall more univerſally bear Rule in the Hearts of Men, and tune the World to a bleſſed Harmony.

This peace in the ſtate will be attended with peace in the Church, which ſhall enjoy a happy Calm, free on the one hand from the violences of Perſecution, and on the other from the diſturbances of falſe Teachers. The Names of Perſecutors are diſtinguiſhed in ſtory by peculiar Marks and Characters of Infamy. But the grand Perſecutor, the Devil, is not ſo commonly taken notice of. 'Tis certain from Scripture that he is concerned, as Principal, in all the Perſecutions that have been raiſed againſt the Church of Chriſt. Thus the Chriſtians of the Church of *Smyrna* who ſuffered Imprisonment in the cauſe of Religion, are ſaid to be *caſt into Priſon by the Devil*, Rev. 2. 20. And ch. 12. 4. We find the red Dragon waiting the delivery of the Starry-crowned Woman with an intention to devour her Child, that is the Devil inſtigating the Heathen Emperors

Emperors to extinguish and destroy the Apostolic Church, and to suppress Christianity at its First appearance. And when the Woman fled into the Wilderness, the Dragon pursues her, and by the assistance of the Beast with seven Heads and Ten Horns, to whom he committed his Power and authority, makes War with the remnant of her seed that refused to receive the Mark of the Beast, viz, the sincere professors of the Gospel. The inhuman Cruelties exercised by these Persecutors, whether Heathen or Christian or rather Antichristian, shew whose Agents they were, and by what Spirit they were acted. 'Twas the red Dragon that inspired them with such Bloody and barbarous minds, and prompted them to those outrages and violences so contrary to that kindness and compassion, which is one of the prime and essential inclinations of Mankind. And therefore when this cruel Fiend, who thus depraves the mild Tempers of Men, and inflames their minds to such cruelty and fierceness, shall be confined to the bottomless pit; and human nature left to the conduct of its own inclinations,

cinations, cultivatad and improved with  
 the mild and merciful principles of Chriſ-  
 tian Religion, the Church ſhall no lon-  
 ger be aſſaulted with ſtorms of Perſecu-  
 tion, but be Bleſſed with a moſt profound  
 tranquility. And What thus with great  
 reaſon is infer'd from the premiſes, may  
 with greater certainty be deduced from  
 the predictions of the Prophets. For this  
 ſtate of Freedom from Sufferings *Iſaiah*  
*Propheſies of. ch. 25. 8. He will ſwal-*  
*low up Death in Victory, and the Lord*  
*God will wipe away Tears from off all*  
*Faces.* With which agrees *St. Johns* de-  
 ſcription of the ſtate of the new *Jeruſalem.*  
*Rev. 21. 4. God ſhall wipe away all Tears*  
*from their Eyes; and there ſhall be no*  
*more Death, neither Sorrom, nor crying*  
*neither ſhall there be any more pain for*  
*the former things are paſſed away.* Which  
 does not Signifie that Men ſhall be immor-  
 tal, and no longer obnoxious to Sickneſ-  
 ſes and bodily Pains, but only that the  
 Church ſhall enjoy a happy ſecurity from  
 the calamities and ſufferings of former  
 times. Secondly, The Peace of the Church  
 is not a little diſturbed by the intempe-  
 rate

rate Zeal of falſe Teachers. By whom theſe *Seducers* that divide the Church into Sects and Parties are ſent out and employ- ed, we learn from our Saviours explica- tion of the Parable of the Tares, Matr 13. 37, 38, 39. *He that ſoweth the good ſeed is the Son of Man. The field is the World, the good ſeed are the Children of the Kingdom, but the tares are the Children of the wicked One. The enemy that ſowed them is the Devil.* Whence it appears that 'tis the Devil that ſows theſe tares of He- retics and Schiſmatics that overrun the field of the Church, and infuſes into their minds falſe and corrupt doctrines. And thus that Floud of Arrianiſm that well nigh overwhelmed the Primitive Church is ſaid to have proceeded out of the mouth of the old Serpent, Rev. 12. 15. And the Corruption of the Chriſtian faith in the latter times is attributed to the Devil by the Apoſtle, Tim. 4. 1. In the latter times ſome ſhall depart from the faith, giving heed to ſeducing Spirits and doc- trines of Devils, that is doctrines Suggeſ- ted by Evil Spirits. So that when the Devil ſhall be reſtrained from ſowing his

tares, and corrupting the minds of Men with false notions of things; there will doubtless follow greater consent in matters of Religion, Truth will prevail and Flourish, and bear down all opposite Errors, which will find no patrons to maintain and propagate them. This Conclusion is grounded not only on reason, but Prophecy. For this *Zechary* prophesied should come to pass in the days of the *Messias*. ch. 13. 2. *It shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the Idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: And also I will cause the prophets, viz, that speak lies, and the unclean Spirit to pass out of the Land.* Satan hath had his Ministers, false Teachers, in every age of the Church, but the time will come when these lying Prophets shall cease and be removed out of it. *They shall have no place in the new Jerusalem. For out of it shall be excluded them that make a lie.* Rev. 21. 27. And such are false Apostles, those deceitful workers that transform themselves into the Apostles of Christ, and with fair speeches deceive the Hearts of the Simple.

II. A great encrease of Piety will follow this confinement of Satan. The design of the Gospel is to restrain Men from all impiety, and to oblige them to the practice of universal goodness. And considering the nature of the laws the Gospel prescribes, their agreeableness to the best reason of mankind, and their tendency to promote both our eternal and temporal happiness, 'tis strange Mens actions are not more conformable to them. It is true human nature by the Fall of our first Parents is very much corrupted, and tainted with evil Inclinations. And this inbred Corruption doth at once indispose us to Goodness, and betray us to many sinful practices agreeable to our depraved appetites. But I cannot think Men would arrive at such heights of wickedness and villainy as we see many do, unless they were pusht forward by the Instigation of some wicked Spirits, who as the Scripture tells us work in, act and inspire the Children of disobedience, great and notorious Sinners over whom they have a more immediate influence

fluence and power. Eph. 2. 2. Nor is the Devil wanting to inveigle and allure even good Men into forbidden courſes. Hence he hath the title of the Tempter, becauſe he makes it his great buſineſs and employment to ſeduce Men to Sin. So that the greateſt part of the wickedneſs that is committed in the World is owing to the Temptations of evil Spirits, who by preſenting to Men the opportunities and occasions of ſin, and inſuſing into them evil motions excite and aſſuate that Corruption which is inherent in our nature. When therefore the Devil ſhall be ſhut up in the Abyſſe, and reſtrained from tempting Men, without doubt immorality and wickedneſs will decline, and there will be a general and more exact conformity to the dictates of Reaſon and the laws of Religion. And this flouriſhing ſtate of Religion is clear from expreſs texts of Scripture. For thus Righteouſneſs is ſaid to dwell in the new Heavens and new Earth 2 Pet. 3. 13. And St. John ſaith that nothing that defileth ſhall enter into the new Jeruſalem. Rev, 21.

27. Which plainly signifies a great en-  
crease of Piety and Vertue in the Millennial  
State of the Church:

CH. AP.

## CHAP. II.

Of the Reſurrection and Reign of  
the Saints.

**I** ſaw Thrones and they ſat upon them; and Judgment was given unto them; And I ſaw the Souls of them that were beheaded for the witneſs of Jeſus, and for the word of God, and which had not worſhipped the Beaſt neither his Image, neither had received his Mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Chriſt a Thouſand years. Rev 20. 4. But the reſt of the dead lived not again until the thouſand years were finiſhed. This is the firſt Reſurrection. Bleſſed and holy is he that hath part in the firſt Reſurrection; On ſuch the ſecond Death hath no power. ver. 5. 6. Here are two things to be conſidered. 1 The judgment given to them that ſat on Thrones. 2 The Living of the Beheaded and their reigning with Chriſt, The meaning of the Firſt is clear from a parallel

lel place *Dan. 7. 22.* Judgment was given to the Saints of the most High. That both the One and the Other belong to the same thing is evident, because they begin from the same Term, viz, the destruction of the fourth Beast, That in *Daniel*, when the Beast (then ruling in the wicked Horn) was slain, and his body destroyed and given to the burning flame, ver 11, 21, 22. This in the Apocalypse, when the Beast and the false Prophet (the wicked Horn in Daniel) were taken and both cast alive into a lake of Fire burning with Brimstone, Rev. 19. 20, 21, &c. vid Mede Ep. 15, They therefore whom St. John saw sitting on Thrones are the Saints of the most High, that is the Jews, the holy People as they are called *Dan. 8. 24. 12. 7.* And to them Judgment was given i. e. Dominion or Empire. For so it follows in the place even now, cited, *The Saints possessed the Kingdom*, ch. 7. 22. When the Course of the four Monarchies is finished by the destruction of the Fourth Beast, the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. And from thenceforth the Kingdom and Dominion and

and greatness of the Kingdom under the whole Heaven shall be given to the People of the Saints of the most High, Daniel 7. 27. And thus of the new Jerusalem it is said, That the Kings of the Earth do bring their Glory and Honour into it Rev. 21. 24. Of this see a more full and particular account in the fourth chapter.

As for the other part of this vision, I find no Key to it in the Prophets. In defect whereof I think it safest to attend to the plain literal sense of the words. And if it be interpreted by this Rule, the thing signified must be the Resurrection and Reign of the Martyrs.

The Resurrection of the dead is a fundamental Article of Christian Faith, built on clear and express texts of Scripture. But in what order the dead shall be raised is no where expressly declared. This only we learn from St. Paul that the Good and the Wicked shall not arise at the same Instant, but that the Righteous will have the Precedency. 1 Cor. 15. 23. Every

*Man in his own order. Christ the first Fruits, afterward they that are Christs, at his Coming. Agreeable to this is that of the same Apostle 1 Thes 4. 13. The Lord himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the Arch-angel and with the Trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Now a Resurrection of the Martyrs prior to the general Resurrection is very consistent with these assertions of the Apostle, which do not deny the Resurrection of some particular Persons before the Coming of Christ to judgment, but only declare that Such of the Righteous whom Christ at his coming shall find in the state of the dead shall have the Precedency of the wicked, and be first restored to life. St. Matthew tells us, that at our Saviours Resurrection the graves were opened, and many Bodies of Saints which slept arose and went into the holy City, and appeared unto many. ch 27. 52, 53. And why may not the Privilege of a more early Resurrection be indulged the Martyrs in recompence of their Sufferings? The invincible Courage and Resolution of the Primitive*

mitive Christians proceeded in a great measure from the hope and expectation of it. And perhaps the Revelation of ſuch a diſtinguiſhing Favour was deſigned on purpoſe for the encouragement and ſupport of their Conſtancy under thoſe Perſecutions wherewith God thought fit to exerciſe the Faith and Patience of the firſt Christians.

That the Martyrs after their Reſurrection ſhall Reign on Earth is an opinion which hath no countenance from Scripture. All St. John here ſaith is, *that the Beheaded lived again and reigned with Chriſt a Thouſand years*, which does not at all favour this Conceit, but rather ſuppoſes the contrary. The Dominion Chriſt was inveſted with at his Aſcenſion, he is to poſſeſs to the end of the World. There is no new Kingdom to be erected for him upon Earth, nor will he deſcend from Heaven where he now reigns until the time appointed by God for the judgment of the World. Then he will ariſe from his Imperial Seat at his Fathers right Hand, and come down into theſe lower Regions

Regions in order to the holding his general Affizes. And this is the Concluding act, and will put an end to his glorious Reign. Now if the Martyrs ſhall be admitted to a participation of Chriſts Kingdom, where ſhould they reign but in Heaven, where Chriſts Throne is, where he reigns in Perſon and from whence he adminiſters all the affairs of the World. There is nothing of Paradox in this Suppoſition to them who believe the Principles and Doctrines of Chriſtianity, which teach that the bodies of good Men being raiſed out of the duſt, and fashioned like unto Chriſts glorious Body, ſhall be tranſlated from this Earth to the Manſions prepared for them in the Heavens. And So far is this *Hypotheſis* of the Millennial Reign from contradicting any text of Scripture, that it ſeems to have a good foundation in it.

1 One principal act of Regality is the power of judging Now St. Paul tells us that the Saints ſhall judge the world 1 Cor. 6. 2. Which to be underſtood of the laſt and final judgment the following

lowing verſe does clearly evince. Know ye not that we ſhall judge Angels? That is, ſuch of them as for their Rebellion againſt God were condemn'd to Hell, and are reſerved in Chains unto the Judgment of the great day, Jude ver. 6. Which is the only judgment to which they are deſtined. The judgment therefore of the World by the *Saints* is no other than that at the laſt day. But who are the *Saints* to whom this authority and power is committed? Not the Righteous in general, for they as well as the wicked muſt appear before the judgment ſeat is Chriſt to give an account of their actions. But perhaps when their Trial is finiſhed, and the Sentence of Abſolution pronounced, they ſhall be tranſlated into the Air, and being placed on Thrones around the Tribunal of Chriſt, ſhall bear a part as Aſſeſſors in the enſuing judgment of Devils and wicked men. But our Saviours deſcription of the Proceſs of the laſt judgment intimates the contrary. For the ſheep and the goats receive their different Sentences, whileſt they are ſtanding the one at the Right, the other on the left

Hand

Hand of the Judge. *Matt 25. 34.* *Then ſhall the King ſay unto them on his right Hand Come ye Bleſſed of my Father inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the Foundation of the World,* But to them on the left *Depart ye Cursed into everlaſting Fire.* ver. 41. Whence it appears that the Aſſumption of the Righteous into the Clouds of Heaven *1 Theſ. 4. 17.* muſt Succeed the trial of the wicked; and conſequently they cannot be concerned in judging them. The *Saints* therefore by whom the World of the ungodly ſhall be judged, and in all probability the Martyrs who reigning with Chriſt in his Kingdom, will joyn with him in the exerciſe of his judiciary authority, and give their ſuffrages to the Sentence which he will paſs upon the wicked. This Solemnity 'tis true is tranſacted after the Thouſand years allotted for the Martyrs Reign are expired, which ſeems to exclude them from bearing any part in this Regal act of judging the World. But there is no neceſſity of concluding their reign with this term, which may very well be extended to the end of Chriſts Mediatorial Kingdom. But becauſe the intermediate ſpace from this period to

the final judgment is but short Rev 20. 3. therefore the duration of their Reign is exprest by the complete number of a Thousand years, the odd years that follow not being brought into the account.

2. Besides the glorious Angels, we read of Myriads of *Saints* that accompany Christ in his triumphant progress from Heaven, Jude, ver 14. 1 *Thes.* 3. 13. To understand this of Angels is without reason to depart from the letter of Scripture against the generally received rule of Interpretation. But to apply it to the Souls of just Men is much more absurd. For these are disposed in Paradise or *Abrahams Bosom* till the Resurrection. Then being reunited to their Bodies they appear before the judgment Seat of Christ, and being finally absolved attend the judge in his return to Heaven. And are now first of all admitted into the immediate presence of God, where there is fulness of joy and perfection of happiness. To send good Men directly to Heaven when they die, and to fetch them from thence at the last day to be judged, that after judgment

ment they may return to their former happy ſeats with the greater Solemnity, is ſuch an odd prepoſterous method of proceeding as no conſidering Man will eaſily admit, much leſs believe agreeable to the infinite wiſdom of Almighty God. Whereas if a firſt and particular Reſurrection be ſuppoſed, a good account may be given of the forementioned texts. For then the *saints* that come with Chriſt will be thoſe holy Perſons who for their conſtancy in Suffering Death for the ſake of God, were Honoured with the peculiar favour of a more early admiſſion into the Kingdom of Heaven. Thus this opinion of the Millennial Reign of the Martyrs is not without ſome fair appearance of probability, and is very agreeable to the Goſpel Oeconomy.

If a figurative Interpretation were to be admitted, the Living of the Beheaded and their reigning with Chriſt a Thouſand years would ſignifie the Riſing of the Church from a dead eſtate, and its enjoyment of peace and tranquility, to which ſentence moſt, that I meet with, incline,

But this

this notion of a Metaphorical Reſurrection is encumbered with ſeveral difficulties which I cannot overcome, For Firſt, every one that hath part in this firſt Reſurrection is pronounced Bleſſed and holy and ſecure from the Power of the ſecond Death, that is, the miſeries of the other World. But ſhall every member of the Church in the Millennial State be eternally bleſſed? Secondly, The ſtate of the Church before the Millennium ſhall be very quiet and peaceable in reference to oppreſſion and perſecution. For the Beaſts Power of making war with the *Saints* is contemporary with the mournful Prophecy of the two Witneſſes, which ends with the ſixth Trumpet. And the laſt act of hoſtility committed by the Beaſt will be the ſlaughter of the witneſſes, who revive and are exalted on high before the ſeventh Angel ſounded. Rev. 11. 11, 12. And from that time to the final deſtruction of the Beaſt under the ſeventh Vial, the *Saints* will live ſecure from the violence of Perſecution. To underſtand therefore the firſt Reſurrection of the riſing of the Church from an oppreſſed and perſecuted ſtate,

state is not agreeable to the condition of the times immediately preceding. These and some other reasons prevail with me to reject this opinion, and to interpret this vision according to the proper meaning of the words,

## CHAP. III.

Of the New Heaven and the  
New Earth.

**A**ND I ſaw a New Heaven and a New Earth, for the firſt Heaven and the firſt Earth were paſſed away, and there was no more Sea, Rev. 21. 1. The Viſion of a New World immediatly following that of the general Judgment, ſeems to ſignifie the Production of a new and more glorious Earth, after the Deſtruction of the old by Fire, for the Seat and Habitation of the Bleſſed. But this is a Myſtery paſt my underſtanding. All that is ſignified by it is a more flourishing and prosperous State of things. In the Prophetick Style great Changes are expreſſed by a New Heaven and a New Earth, which in the Language of the *Hebrews* ſignifies a new World, and was uſed by them according to the preſent Notion of it among us.

to denote a new Face and Condition of Things. This new Creation God foretold by the Prophet *Iſaiah* Chap. 65. 17. Behold I create new Heavens and a new Earth, and the former ſhall not be remembred, nor come into mind. What follows in that Chapter does unfold the meaning of this Creation. Be you glad and rejoyce in that which I create, for behold I create *Jeruſalem* a rejoycing and her People a joy, verſ. 18. And I will rejoyce in *Jeruſalem* and joy in my People, and the voice of weeping ſhall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying, verſ. 19. They ſhall build Houſes and inhabit them, and they ſhall plant Vineyards, and eat the fruit of them, verſ. 21. The wolf and the Lamb ſhall feed together, and the Lion ſhall eat ſtraw like the Bullock, and Duſt ſhall be the Serpents Meat. They ſhall not hurt nor deſtroy in all my Holy Mountain, ſaith the Lord, verſ. 25. This Mountain is the Church or Kingdom of Chriſt, *Iſa.* 11. And the joyful, ſecure, and peaceable condition of it, is that New Heaven and Earth which God promiſes to create. This new World, this happy State  
of

of the Church hath not yet been seen. Nevertheless we according to this promise look for New Heavens and a New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, 2 Peter 3. 13. In the fore-going Verses St. Peter speaks of the melting of the Elements, of the burning of the Earth, and the Dissolution of all things. And then it follows, nevertheless we according to his Promise look for New Heavens and a New Earth. Whence some have concluded that this New World must succeed the Conflagration, which is a great mistake. For St. Peter's New Heaven and Earth is no other than that promised, *Isaiah* 65. 17. And the New World in *Isaiah* doth clearly belong to the Kingdom of Christ, which must conclude with the Resurrection and last Judgment, *1 Corinth.* 15. 35, 26, 28. He must Reign till he hath put all Enemies under his Feet. The last Enemy that shall be destroyed is Death. And when all things shall be subdued unto him then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. If therefore  
the

the New Heaven and New Earth muſt be before the Concluſion and Surrender of Chriſt's Kingdom, then muſt it of neceſſity be before the Conflagration of the World, which will not begin, 'till the Judgment is concluded. And though there are no certain Characters in the Revelation, by which the preciſe time of this Viſion may be found out; yet from that place in *Iſaiah* it may be concluded to belong to the Kingdom of Chriſt, and particularly to the laſt Scene of it under the *Millennium*, when the State of Things will be vaſtly different from what they are or have hitherto been, as has been fully proved in the firſt Chapter. And ſo great will be the proſperity of the Millennial State, that there will be no longer need of Ships for War or Foreign Commerce and Traffick, which the preſent condition of things requires, which I take to be the meaning of what is added by St. John, and there was no more Sea.

## CHAP. IV.

## Of the new Jeruſalem.

**A**nd I John ſaw the holy City, the New Jeruſalem coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a Bride adorned for her Huſband. And I heard a great voice out of Heaven, ſaying, behold the Tabernacle of God is with Men, and He will dwell with them, and they ſhall be His People, and God himſelf ſhall be with them and be their God. Rev 21. 2, 3. Concerning the New Jeruſalem here are three things to be inquired. What is meant, 1 By the New Jeruſalem. 2 By its coming down from Heaven. 3. By the walking of the Nations in the light of it, ver. 21. Theſe I take to be the moſt material Points, the reſolution whereof will give us a clear underſtanding of this Myſtery.

1. By the New Jeruſalem or the Lambs wife ver, 9, 10. Is meant the People of the  
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the *Jews* converted to the Faith of Chriſt. Upon the ruin of *Babylon*, the Elders rejoyce for the approaching ſolemnity of the Lambs Marriage. *Rev* 19. 7. *Let us be glad and rejoyce for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made her ſelf ready.* Now the fall of *Babylon* and deſtruction of the ſeven-headed Beaſt, or Roman Empire, is the very point of time prefixt for the Conversion and Reſtauration of the *Jewiſh* Nation, That their blindneſs and infidelity ſhall then be removed, we learn from *St. Paul* *Rom.* 11. 25. *I would not that ye ſhould be ignorant of this Myſtery, that blindneſs in part is happen'd to Iſrael, until the fulneſs of the Gentiles be come in, And ſo all Iſrael ſhall be ſaved.* This coming in of the fulneſs of the Gentiles, is of the ſame Import and Significancy, with the fulfilling the times of the Gentiles, which puts an end to the Miſeries and diſperſions of the *Jews*. *Luk.* 21. 24. *And they ſhall fall by the Edge of the Sword, and ſhall be lead away captive into all Nations, and Jeruſalem ſhall be troden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.* The times of the Gentiles

are the times of the four Monarchies, wherein the Gentiles have dominion. And when the time of the fourth and last monarchy is expired and accomplished, the Jews will every where embrace the Christian Religion, and be restored to their ancient Countrey from which they have so long been banished. Now if the Restitution of the Jewish Nation, and the Marriage of the Lamb are co-incident and happen at the same time, what can we imagine the New Jerusalem, the Bride, the Lambs Wife to be, but the Jews, once Gods peculiar people, to whom after so long a divorce he will be graciously reconciled, and receive them again into favour. The greatness of the happiness they will enjoy in their native Land, is here represented by a most splendid and magnificent City, whose foundations are garnished with all manner of precious stones ver. 19. Which had no need of the Sun or Moon to shine upon it, being enlightened by the Glory of God, ver. 23. By a Chrystal River of Water of life proceeding from the Throne of God and of the Lamb. Chap. 22. 1. And lastly by the Tree of life bearing

bearing twelve manner of Fruits, yielding her Fruits every Month ver. 2. All which is nothing but a Rhetorical description of the flourishing state of the *Jews* after their return from Captivity. Which kind of descriptions were familiar to the *Jews*, and very frequently occur in Prophetic writings see. *Isa.* 54. 11, 12. 66. 19. *Job.* 13. 16, 17.

11. By the descending of the New *Jerusalem* from God out of Heaven, I understand the Restitution of the *Jews* by the immediate Power of God. That *Jesus* is the Christ is demonstratively evident from their own Books, the Writings of the old Testament. And yet in defiance of the most solid reasoning and discourse they have obstinately persisted in their unbelief near seventeen hundred years. So that their Infidelity seems incurable by any human Methods of Conviction. But that which to Men is impossible, is possible to God, who by the Power of his grace can reduce the most perverse and incorrigible Sinners. How wonderfully and Suddenly was St. *Paul* converted

converted, who of a bitter and virulent Persecutor of Christians became a most active and zealous Preacher of the Gospel? Whether the Conversion of the Jews shall be wrought after the same manner viz, by a vision and voice from Heaven, I cannot tell. But whatever may be the external and visible means, the Spirit of God will be the Principal Agent in this business. Who by the internal Illumination of their minds, with the light of Heavenly truth, will Scatter the clouds and mists of prejudice, and convince them of their Error and wickedness in rejecting the Holy Jesus. This their repentance *Isaiah* speaks of Chap. 59. 20. Which is much clearer from *St. Paul's* application of this Prophecy, Rom 11. 26, 27. *There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is my Covenant with them, when I shall take away their Sins.* With this agrees that of *Zechary*. In that day I will pour upon the house of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of Grace and Supplication, and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall

ſhall Mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only Son, and ſhall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firſt born Chap. 12. 10. And the ſame Divine Power that worketh this inward change in the Jews, will incline the Hearts of the ſeveral Princes in whoſe Countries they are diſperſed to give them liberty of returning to the land of Canaan, and to furniſh them with all things needful. Surely the Iſles ſhall wait for me, and the ſhips of Tarſhiſh firſt, to bring thy Sons from far, their Silver and their Gold with them. Iſa 60. 9. Some are of Opinion that their Captivity ſhall be perpetual. But beſides that the above-mentioned text Luke 21. 24. Which ſpeaks of the diſperſion of the Jews, and the deſolation of Jeruſalem, Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfill'd, implies the contrary. There are ſeveral Prophecies that foretell their return. Particularly that of Amos Chap. 9. 14, 15. And I will bring again the Captivity of my People Iſrael. and they ſhall build the waſte Cities and inhabit them, and they ſhall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they ſhall alſo make gar-

and eat the Fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their own land, and they ſhall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them ſaith the Lord. The perpetuity of the Settlement here ſpoken of ſhews that it is to come, and cannot belong to their reeſta bliſhment after the return from Babylon, which was not of much above five hundred years continuance. But no where is the preſent Captivity and future return of the Jews ſo clearly Propheſied of as in the Book of Tobit Chap. 14. 4, 5. Our Brethren ſhall be ſcattered in the Earth from that good land, and Jeruſalem ſhall be deſolate, and the Houſe of God in it ſhall be burned, and ſhall be deſolate for a time: And again God will have mercy on them, and bring them again into the land where they ſhall build a Temple, but not like to the firſt in *ἡμετέραν γὰρ τὴν πόλιν*, till the ſonſons of the age be fulfilled, which ſignifies the continuance of the ſecond Temple till the diſſolution of the Jewiſh Polity. And again they ſhall go into a long and great Captivity viz. the preſent, which words are wanting in the Greek and Eng-

lish Versions, but are in the Hebrew Copy set out by *Paulus Fagius*, and afterwards they shall return from all places of their Captivity, and build up Jerusalem again, and the House of God shall be built in it for ever with a glorious building, as the Prophets have spoken thereof.

III. The same of the Jews return being spread over the World, Christian Princes pour in their treasures into the Holy Land, and contribute their assistances towards the rebuilding Jerusalem and the rest of the waste and desolate Cities. The Nations of them that are saved, shall walk in the light of the New Jerusalem, and the Kings of the Earth do bring their Glory and Honour into it Rev 21. 24. Upon the return from Babylon, the building of the Temple and City met with great opposition and obstructions from the envy and malice of the adversaries of *Judah*. But now there will be no *Rehums* or *Sabbatists* to obstruct their proceedings, the work will be vigorously carried on by the united forces and joint endeavours of Jews

and Gentiles. This assistance of the Gentiles *Isaiah* speaks of Chap. 60. 10, 11. *The Sons of strangers shall build up thy walls, and their Kings shall minister unto thee; for in my wrath I smote thee, but in my favour have I had mercy on thee. Therefore thy Gates shall be open continually, they shall not be shut day nor night, that Men may bring unto thee the forces or wealth of the Gentiles, And again Chap. 61. 4, 5, 6. They shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste Cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your Flocks and the Sons of the Alien shall be your Plowmen and your Vine-dressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord; Men shall call you the Ministers of our God; ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their Glory shall you boast your selves. But their greatest Glory will be the profession and establishment of true Christian Religion among them, with the knowledge whereof God will wonderfully inlighten their minds, for a Pattern to all the Gentile Nations professing Christianity, who shall now conform to the*  
Standard

Standard of the *Jewiſh Church*. And this I take to be the meaning of the Nations walking in the light of the *New Jeruſalem*, and to be the full accompliſhment of theſe words in *Iſaiah*, *the Gentiles ſhall come to thy light and Kings to the brightneſs of thy riſing Chap. 60. 3.*

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## CHAP. V.

Of Gog and Magog's attempt against the  
Camp of the Saints.

**T**HE Jews being replanted in the promised land, shall enjoy an uninterrupted course of prosperity for several ages. But when the Thousand years of Satans confinement are expired, he shall be loosed out of his Prison. And shall go out to deceive the Nations which are in the four Quarters of the Earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battel, the number of whom is as the Sand of the Sea. Rev 20. 7, 8. At whose instigation, They went up, saith St. John, on the breadth of the Earth, and compassed the Camp of the Saints about, and the beloved City. But this attempt ended in the total overthrow and destruction of that numerous Army. For fire came down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them vers. 9. A terrible Expedition this, and no less astonishing than

than the iſſue. And that which encreaſes the Wonder is the common opinion concerning the Amplitude of Chriſts Kingdom, which long ere this may be preſumed to be arrived at its full extent. For if all the Nations under Heaven have of a long time received and profeſſed the faith of Chriſt, as this opinion ſuppoſes 'tis very ſtrange that ſuch a prodigious number of Chriſtians from the four Quarters of the Earth, ſhould all on a ſudden conſpire to invade *Judea* and to deſtroy the *Jews*, profeſſing the ſame Religion, and whom their late reeſtabliſhment proclaims to be in a more peculiar manner the favourites of Heaven,

The preſent limits of the Church no doubt will be greatly enlarged by the acceſſion of many Nations now ſitting in darkneſs and the ſhadow of Death. And this enlargement (whatever encrease it may receive in the mean time, of which there is little proſpect) may reaſonably be expected at the time of the *Jews* Converſion, from which no leſs then from their Infidelity the Gentile world will receive

great advantages. *if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness, Rom. 11. 12.* That is upon the coming in of the body of the Jewish Nation to the Church of Christ, the Gospel will be farther propagated among the Gentiles, which is all that can be concluded from that Text. 'Tis true there are several places of Scripture which seem to extend the Kingdom of Christ over all Nations of the Earth, and to foretell the reception of the Gospel by all People in all places of the World. Thus it is foretold of Christ, *that there should be given him Dominion and Glory and a Kingdom, that all People, Nations and Languages should serve him, and that all Dominions should serve and obey him, Dan. 7. 14, 27.* And thus of the *stone cut out without Hands*, by which all agree is meant the Kingdom of Christ, it is said *that it became a great mountain and filled the whole Earth Dan. 2. 34, 35.* But these and the like Prophecies signifie no more than the vast extent and largeness of the Christian Church

Church in opposition to the straitness of the Church of the *Jews* which was confined within the narrow limits of a small Countrey. That these notes of Universality All, Whole, are to be interpreted in a limited and restrained sense, is evident from other Prophecies in this Book of *Daniel* concerning the extent of the Grecian and Roman Empires. For thus it is foretold of the *third Kingdom* that it should bear Rule over all the Earth Chap. 2. 39. And of the *fourth Kingdom*, that it should devour the whole Earth. Dan. 7. 23. And yet neither the Greeks nor Romans could pretend to an universal Conquest of the whole World. There were several Nations never visited by the Roman Eagle, and where the Name of *Alexander* was never heard of, although 'tis said he was so vain as to weep for want of more Worlds to conquer. And thus a great part of the World will never be actually subject to Christ, nor under the government of his laws. For as the Greeks and Romans bearing Rule over and devouring all the Earth, signifies no more than the greatness of their Conquests and the largeness

largeness of their Dominions: So by the obedience of all Nations to Christ, and his Kingdoms filling the whole Earth, can be meant no more than the worship and acknowledgment of Christ by the greater part of the World. And it is observable that *Isaiah* Prophecy'ing of the establishment of the *Mountain of the Lords House on the top of the Mountains, and the exaltation of it above the Hills, and the Confluence of all Nations unto it* Chap. 2. 2. In the next verse the universal is changed into a particular proposition. *And many People shall go and say, Come ye and let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord, to the House of the God of Jacob,* intimating the reception of the Gospel by a great part of mankind, and the continuance of the rest of the World in the state of Heathenism. And now the wonder of this Invasion ceases. For 'tis easy to imagine the Camp of the Saints encompassed by an army of Infidels excited or provoked thereto by the Devil. But there is some difficulty in conceiving how this army should be drawn together from so remote and distant places of the World.

For the Nations of which it is compoſed are ſaid to be in the four Quarters of the Earth. But it hath been obſerved by a learned Man, that  $\gamma\eta$  in many places of the New Teſtament hath a Critical ſignification, and does peculiarly refer to the Land of *Judea*. And in this notion it is here to be underſtood, as ſignifying not the whole World, but that Part or Portion of it, which by God was given to the Poſterity of *Abraham*, and which is here diſtinguiſhed by a new Name, the Camp of the Saints, in alluſion to their incamping in the *Wilderneſs*. And then the Nations in the four Quarters or corners of the Land will be ſome people ſeated in the Countries not far diſtant from *Judea*, whom we may eaſily conceive entering into a Confederacy againſt the *Jews*, and uniting their forces for the deſtruction of theſe Saints of the moſt High. And thus the greateſt difficulties relating to this viſion are removed. And the plain meaning and ſignification of it appears to be the Invaſion of *Judea* by ſome of the neighbouring Nations. Which event if it were foretold by the Prophets, there  
can

can be no reason to question or doubt of the truth of this Exposition. Now concerning this Invasion there are several Prophecies, but the most remarkable and express is that in *Ezekiel*, between which and this vision there is an exact and admirable agreement.

*Ezekiel's Prophecy,*  
Chap. 30.

*St. John's Vision,*  
*Rev. 20.*

"In the latter  
"days thou, viz. Gog  
"shalt come into  
"the Land that is  
"brought back from  
"the Sword, and  
"is gathered out of  
"many People, a-  
"gainst the Moun-  
"tains of *Israel*. In-  
"vasurus montes *Is-*  
"*raelis*, *Junius*, ver.  
"8. Thou shalt as-  
"cend and come  
"like a Storm, thou

"And when the  
"Thousand Years  
"are expired, Satan  
"shall be loosed out  
"of his Prison ver.  
"7. And shall go  
"out to deceive  
"the Nations, Gog  
"and *Magog* to ga-  
"ther them toge-  
"ther to Battel the  
"number of whom  
"is as the Sand of  
"the Sea, verse 8.  
"And they went up  
"and

“ ſhalt be like a  
“ Clond to cover  
“ the Land, thou  
“ and all thy Bands  
“ and many People  
“ with thee, ver. 9.

“ And it ſhall come  
“ to paſs at the  
“ ſame time, when  
“ Gog ſhall come a-  
“ gainſt the Land  
“ of *Iſrael*, ſaith the  
“ Lord God, that  
“ my Fury ſhall  
“ come up in my  
“ Face. And I will  
“ plead againſt him  
“ with Peſtilence  
“ and with Blood,  
“ and I will Rain  
“ upon him and his  
“ Bands, and upon  
“ the many People  
“ that are with  
“ him, an over-  
“ flowing Rain, and  
“ great Hail-ſtones,

“ and compaſſed a-  
“ bout the Camp  
“ of the Saints, and  
“ the beloved City,  
“ verſ. 9.

“ And Fire came  
“ down from God  
“ out

"Fire and Brim- " out of Heaven  
 "stone, vers. 18, " & devoured them  
 " 22. " vers. 9.

And whereas it is objected that *Gog* in *Ezekiel* comes out of the North parts vers. 15. whereas *Gog* and *Magog* in the *Revelation* are laid to be Nations which are in the four Quarters of the Earth, this seeming difference admits of an easy Solution. For although *Gog* with the People of *Magog* came out of the North parts, yet the rest of the people of which his army consists, come from other parts. Some from *Persia*, some from *Ethiopia* and *Lybia*, and others from the North Quarters of the lesser *Asia*, viz. *Gomer* and *Togarmah* vers. 5, 6. So that here are several Nations in Confederacy against the *Jews*, and these lying against the four Corners of their Land. But whereas *Gog* and *Magog* are chief in this Expedition, therefore they only are mentioned by *St. John*. And for the same Reason, the judgment of God against this Army is in *Ezekiel* denounced particularly against *Gog*. So that here is no difference but a most exact harmony and

and consent between the Prophet and the Divine.

But there is a farther Correspondence as to the time of this Invasion very remarkable, and which abundantly confirms my Interpretation. This in the *Revelation* is about a Thousand years after the Jews Conversion, and repossession of their native Land. And that in *Ezekiel* succeeds the Restauration of the Jewish Nation and their Subjection to Christ. For in the seven and thirtieth Chapter is foretold the Return of the whole House of *Israel*, vers. 11, 12. The Reunion of the two Kingdoms after this Return, vers. 21, 22. And the perpetual government of *David* or Christ over them vers. 25. And then follows in the next Chapter, the Prophecy of *Gog* invading the people of *Israel* in the latter days or towards the End of the World Chap. 38. 16.

CHAP.

## CHAP. VI.

Of the general judgment and end of  
the World.

**T**HE last viſion is that of the general Judgment which is the concluding Scene, and ends with the Conflagration of the World. *And I ſaw a great white Throne, and him that ſat on it, from whoſe face the Earth and the Heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I ſaw the dead, ſmall and great, ſtand before God, and the Books were opened, and another Book was opened which is the Book of Life, and the Dead were judged out of thoſe things which were Written in the Books according to their works. And the Sea gave up the Dead which were in it, and Death and Hell delivered up the Dead which were in them: And they were judged every Man according to his works. And Death and Hell were caſt into the lake of fire: this is the ſecond Death. And whoſoever was not found Written*

*written in the Book of Life, was cast into the lake of Fire.* Rev 20. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. What St. John here saith of the dead standing before the Throne of God, and their being judged according to their works, needs not much explication. The right of judging belongs to none but God, nor is any besides a God qualified for so mighty a performance. But we are assured from Scripture that this judgment shall be administred by God Incarnate in the Person of Jesus Christ who is ordained the Judge of quick and Dead, Act 10. 42. For the Father judgeth no Man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son, and that for this reason as Our Saviour himself tells us, because he is the Son of Man, that is truly and really Man as well as God, John 5. 27. For of the three Persons in the Blessed Trinity, the Son only is personally united to Human nature. And therefore being God-man is the most proper Judge of Men who must be judged in their Bodies.

The consequents of this judgment are  
E not

not so clear and obvious. For as for the casting Death and Hell into the lake of Fire, with all whose names are not found Written in the Book of Life; and the flying away of the Earth and the Heaven from the face of him that sits on the Throne; these are somewhat obscure expressions, and not so easily understood,

1. St. Paul tells us that *the last Enemy that shall be destroyed is Death* 1 Cor 15. 26. Which destruction is here expressed by casting Death and Hell or *Hades* the place of separate Souls into the lake of Fire. And signifies that there shall be no more separation of Soul and Body, but that Men arise to an immortal and endless Life. But whether this immortality and endless duration be common to all Men, or peculiar only to the Blessed is made matter of dispute. That good Men shall live for ever in a State of unspeakable happiness, is a privilege beyond the merit of the most perfect virtue. But eternal Life is a gift very becoming the infinite Goodness of God to bestow. And no Man ever Quarrel'd with God on this Score,

Score, for promiſing to reward the imperfect Services of Men with Eternal Happineſs. But by ſome it is thought very Hard, and no way conſiſtent with the laws of juſtice, to puniſh the ſins of a ſhort life with an eternity of Torment; that Men who ſin but a few years, muſt live for ever in inſupportable Miſery, there being no proportion between Time and Eternity. This indeed is a very great difficulty, and hath inforced ſome Men to put a period to the miſeries of the Damned, as not knowing how to reconcile the Divine Juſtice to the Eternity of Hell Torments.

Whatever is neceſſary for the preſervation of Government, and ſecuring obedience to laws, muſt be allowed to be juſt and lawful, Which juſtifies the ſeverity of God in denouncing everlaſting miſery againſt impenitent ſinners, becauſe nothing leſs would be a ſufficient reſtraint upon moſt Men from breaking the laws of God. For if the generality of Men deſpiſe theſe Terrors of the Lord: what regard would they have for menaces leſs

ſevere? But that God ſhould execute theſe threats according to the ſtrictest ſenſe of them, there is no neceſſity. For tho Promiſes oblige to a performance, yet Threats do not induce any obligation, nor does juſtice require the Execution of them. And therefore God, if he pleaſes, may deal with Sinners more mercifully than he hath threatned. But whether he will ſhew them favour, and abate any thing of the utmoſt he has denounced, I cannot tell. This is moſt certain, that no Man ſhall ſuffer beyond the juſt deſert of his actions. But who dare ſay that God cannot in juſtice inflict Eternal puniſhment? For any Man upon ſuch a preſumption to harden himſelf againſt the clear and expreſs threats of endless Miſery, is the height of madneſs. For if at laſt the Torments of a future ſtate are Eternal, how ſad and deplorable will his Condition be? And if they prove finite and end in his final deſtruction, yet what an amazing and inſupportable thought is this, for a Man to ſuffer the pains of Hell ſo long as the Divine juſtice can inflict them, and at laſt with all ſenſe of farther ſufferings

to lose his Being for ever. This indeed is the mildest fate the Sinner can expect, but a much more severe may be his doom.

II. This punishment of wicked Men is exprest by being cast into the lake of Fire. Which some interpret, according to the literal sense, of Torment by real fire. Others understand this to be a Metaphorical description of the unknown miseries of the Damned. The truth seems divided between these two opinions. For first, it is clear from *St. Peter*, that the Heavens and the Earth which are now, are reserved unto fire against the day of judgment. *2 Ep. 3. 7.* And whatever operation this fire may have upon the Apostate Spirits, it will doubtless affect the bodies of wicked Men with most painful impressions.

But secondly, This seems only the Prologue to a more tragical state which they must enter upon when this Conflagration is ended, and of which a lake of fire and Brimstone is only a represen-

ration. The miseries of Hell are described in Scripture by the most sensible and painful things. And because the most dreadful Idea of pain the mind can form, is the suffering by a raging and devouring fire, therefore this Metaphor of fire is most frequently used. And as for the lake of Fire and Brimstone so often mentioned in the Revelation, it relates to the lake *Asphaltites* or the Dead Sea, the lasting Monument of those shows of Fire and Brimstone wherewith the Cities of *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* were consumed. These and the like descriptions are lively Images and Representations of Hell Torments, and signifie them to be intolerable great, but they do not express the true nature of them. This indeed is in a great measure unknown to us, and the most affrighted imagination cannot reach the truth and terror of them. For who can tell or conceive what evils and Miseries the wrath of God and his vengeance on the ungodly comprehends.

III. By the Earth and the Heaven  
flying

flying away from the face of him that sits on the Throne, I understand the destruction of their present frame. I see no reason from this or any other place of Scripture to conclude the utter Abolition or Annihilation of the World. The matter and Substance of the Earth and the rest of the Mosaic Creation will doubtless continue the same, but they will receive a new form, or rather be *radis indigestaque moles*, an indigested heap without form or order. This Dissolution of things St. Peter speaks of, and tells us that this wonderful Metamorphosis shall be effected by Fire, 2 Per. 3.

Some are apt to fancy that this Conflagration of the World is in order to its refining, and that the Heavens and Earth being purged by Fire, God will erect a new World out of the old Materials for the seat and habitation of the Blessed. But this is a mere Imagination and is directly contrary to Scripture, which teaches us, that the Kingdom, which the Righteous must inherit was prepared for them from the foundation

the World Matt. 25. 24. And as for the New Heavens and the New Earth which St. John and St. Peter speak of, I have shewed that they do not signifie the Creation of a New World after the day of Judgment, but a New state of things in the old.

Others think this Conflagration to be perpetual, and to be designed for the punishment of the wicked who shall live and suffer in this Fire to Eternal Ages. This seems to have some foundation in Scripture, which speaks of the condemnation of the wicked to everlasting Fire. But this fire to which wicked Men will be condemned, is the same with that prepared for the Devil and his Angels, which cannot be a Real One. For the evil Angels are spiritual Substances, and have no sense of Material Impressions. If then the punishment of the Devil and wicked Men be of the same kind, the means and instrument of their Torment will not be Fire. And so this opinion of a burning World falls to the ground. The fire therefore at the day of judgment

is not intended chiefly for the puniſhment of ungodly Men though they, as I ſaid before, will ſuffer by it, but for the deſtruction or diſſolution of the World, to which God will then put an end and reduce it to its Primitive Chaos. And this dark, ſpace out of which the Earth and Heaven are fled away, I ſuppoſe to be that Blackneſs of Darkneſs mentioned by *St. Peter* and *St. Jude* and which is ſaid to be reſerved for the Damned. For thus of the Angels that kept not their firſt eſtate, but left their own habitation, *St. Jude*, ſaith verſ. 6. that God hath reſerved them for everlaſting Chains, or to be bound in everlaſting Chains under Darkneſs at the Judgment of the great Day, *Vid. Piſcator in Loc. Medæ Diſc. 4.* And the fate of ungodly Men is the ſame, for to them is likewise reſerved the blackneſs of darkneſs for ever, verſ. 13. And in this melancholy State of Darkneſs and Horror, the Devil and his Angels, and all whoſe Names are not found written in the Book of Life ſhall be tormented, and endure greater Miſeries than the mildeſt fears

fears and jealousies of the most guilty minds can imagine.

*Nisi in hisce talibus liberius paulo  
sentiendi, imo & errandi venia  
concedatur, ad profunda illa &  
latentia veritatis adyta via nun-  
quam patefacta fuerit. Mede.*

**FINIS.**

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